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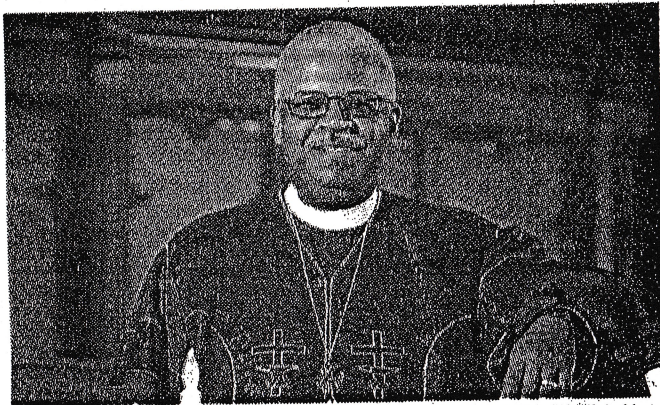
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FROM THE PULPIT

The work of the kingdom is in our hands



MARK MULVILLE/Bufalo News

"Sometimes all we have to go on is our experience in trusting God's Word." The Rev. Richard A. Stenhouse

The Rev. Richard A. Stenhouse is an ordained elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. A native of Buffalo, he was educated in the Buffalo public schools, the University at Buffalo, Colgate-Rochester Divinity School and the United Theological Seminary. He has been pastor of Bethel AME Church since June 1997 and is executive director of Bethel Head Start.

This sermon is based on Acts 2:1-4:

There is a legend that states that after the Ascension – when Jesus returned to heaven as the exalted and reigning Christ, some of the angels, archangels, and others of the heavenly host were curious about his earthly sojourn and questioned him about his accomplishments.

They asked: "Did you found a great movement? Did you lead a great army? How many followers did you have?" To which our Lord

replied, "I generally attracted good crowds, but I only had 12 disciples and a few friends and dedicated followers."

"Well," they said, "if there were so few they must have been exceptional human beings with sterling characters, persons who were leaders in their communities and successful in their careers. To this Jesus replied, "Actually they were rather ordinary – a tax collector, several fishermen, just common working people."

"Evidently they must have been a very loyal group," the others said. Jesus answered, "I believe they wanted to be loyal, but in my hour of crisis one betrayed me, another denied me, and almost all of them fled."

"And yet you expect this group to carry on

See Pulpit Page C2